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WINNIPEG metro®

Thursday, November 22, 2012

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# Snowmobilers continue to wait for staging areas

**Snow job.** Banned from public property, area sledders now lack access to trails

BERNICE PONTANILLA
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A battle over jurisdiction is the reason why Winnipeg snowmobilers continue waiting for staging areas, according to a City of Winnipeg official.

A ban on snowmobiling on public property within city limits was approved last February in response to the death of Ken Stammers, who was hit and killed by a snowmobile while walking his dog in a field near his home in Transcona in January of 2011. They also approved the idea of staging areas, which would see snowmobiles take off from designated public areas inside the city to meet up with official trails outside the city.

Brad Sacher, the City of Winnipeg's director of the public works, told councillors on the protection and community services committee that two or three rural municipalities are involved in talks over the staging areas.

"It's a very complicated issue because of the multi-jurisdictional parts, as well, you know, there's still the issue of how would someone get from their property to the staging area," said Sacher during Monday's meeting.

The ban took effect on Nov. 1, which prompted chair Coun. Scott Fielding (St. James-Brooklands) to ask if the ban can be enforced without the staging areas and how the snowmobiling community is dealing with it.

"Certainly the police service is enforcing the ban, I can't speak to the level of comfort that's in the snowmobiling communities," answered Sacher.

Ken Lucko, executive director of Snoman Manitoba Inc., said his group hasn't spoken with city officials since the spring and meetings scheduled over the summer were cancelled.

"The city was putting no funds out for the establishment of these (staging areas), from what we understand," he said. "We're all disappointed with the city's stance on this (the ban)."

A ban on snowmobiling on public property is now in effect, yet the promised staging areas to get snowmobilers from the city to official trails have yet to materialize. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Fielding said on Wednesday that conversations with Snoman will happen and staging areas are still "an important part of the equation."

He said he expects a report dealing with the remaining issues to be tabled in by the January protection and community services meeting.

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# Graham James now eligible to apply for full parole

**Disgraced coach.**
Despite eligibility, he has not made a request

Disgraced junior hockey coach Graham James is eligible to apply for full parole, but has not yet made a request.

Last March, James was sentenced to two years in jail after pleading guilty to sexually abusing retired NHL star Theo Fleury and his cousin, Todd Holt, when they were teenage players in the Western Hockey League.

James became eligible for day parole in September and for full parole this week, but the National Parole Board says it has not received any applications from him.

The Crown is appealing the two-year sentence in a hearing set for Dec. 3.

The Crown had asked for a six-year term and, in its appeal, says the judge erred by placing too much emphasis on James' previous time behind bars.

James was sentenced to 3 1/2 years in 1997 for molesting former NHLer Sheldon Kennedy and two other players.

He got out of jail in 2000 and dropped out of public view.

If the Crown is not successful in its appeal, James is eligible for statutory release next July.

His lawyer, Evan Roitenberg, has so far offered no comment on why James has not asked for parole.

Roitenberg had asked for a conditional sentence with no jail time. Following his client's sentencing last spring, Roitenberg said James had accepted his fate and had been punished enough.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Graham James arrives at court in Winnipeg on March 20 for sentencing after sexually abusing two of his former players. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

# Campaign to make approaching abuse victims easier

Lori Rudniski, co-chair of the Family Violence Consortium of Manitoba, says a new brochure aimed at friends and family of people in abusive relationships will be available provincewide. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Providing family, friends and neighbours with the tools to approach loved ones in abusive relationships is the goal of a new Manitoba-wide campaign.

The Family Violence Consortium of Manitoba, made up of about 35 organizations that help families affected by domestic violence, launched a comprehensive brochure on Wednesday at the Norwood Community Centre.

Lori Rudniski, co-chair of the Family Violence Consortium of Manitoba, said the goal is to give confidence to people who want to reach out to someone they know is in need of help.

Rudniski said one in four women will experience an abusive adult intimate partnership throughout their life, and four in 10 women who have experienced violence report their children also witnessed the abuse.

"Probably most concerning is that only 26 per cent of women abuse incidents are actually reported to police," she added.

The brochure touches on the warning signs of abuse, tips on when the danger increases, support starting points and words of support. It also makes it clear that both men and women can be victims of abuse and it can happen in non-heterosexual relationships as well.

Rudniski said the brochures will be available across the province, including in doctors' offices and pharmacies.

"We're hoping to get to as many places and people and centres as possible," she said.

"It's meant for the everyday Manitobans."

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

**Help**

**How to help someone being abused:**

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# Pembina. Elderly man killed in highway crash was jaywalking: Police

Winnipeg police have identified the pedestrian hit and killed on Pembina Highway Tuesday night as a 76-year-old man from outside of Winnipeg.

Police were called to the 2600 block of Pembina Highway around 6 p.m. where the man had been hit by a northbound vehicle while trying to get across the busy roadway in front of the Windsor Plywood Store.

Police spokesperson Cst. Eric Hofley said the man was not crossing at a light or crosswalk, and had successfully made it across the southbound lanes before being struck.

"My understanding is this was not at an intersection," said Hofley. "As always we request motorists in the City of Winnipeg to be alert to pedestrian traffic, be it at an intersection where you may be expecting them, or mid-block where often people are crossing to save time."

Although police confirmed the victim is from Manitoba, Hofley wouldn't say where exactly the man is from.

Members of the Central Traffic Unit continue to investigate and no charges against the driver have been laid. METRO

**Booze not to blame**

- Drugs and alcohol are not considered factors in the crash.

# Health care. Manitoba getting tough on workers who dip into records

Manitoba health-care workers could soon face fines if they get caught snooping into patient records without being authorized.

The NDP government has introduced a bill that would forbid anyone from looking at personal health records unless required for work.

The current Personal Health Information Act say people are only penalized if they divulge any information.

The provincial ombudsman urged the government earlier this year to strengthen the law to ban unauthorized access.

His suggestion came after a Winnipeg health-care worker pulled the health records of a neighbour.

Health Minister Theresa Oswald says there will also be penalties for falsifying records. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Elsewhere**

- Similar health-care privacy laws exist in Alberta, New Brunswick and other provinces.

The Metropolitan Theatre, once shuttered and abandoned, is about to come alive again. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

# Renewed Met set to open

## Kudos. Canad Inns led $16M rejuvenation of 1919 theatre

BERNICE PONTANILLA
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The official countdown has begun for the opening of the Metropolitan Theatre, with an invitation-only unveiling event planned for next week.

Ross McGowan, president and CEO of CentreVenture, an arms-length agency of the City of Winnipeg that advocates for development in the downtown area, said the renovation of the Met is "the first major step in the creation of the sports and entertainment district."

"It's a good complement to what we have in the downtown," said McGowan, adding MTS Centre caters to large events and the Burton Cummings Theatre caters to the rock crowd.

Canad Inns bought the Met, which closed its doors in 1987, from CentreVenture for $100,000 in 2006 and planned on making it a conference, banquet and meeting facility that could accommodate more than 1,000.

Canad Inns invested more than $13 million in the project, with an additional $1.5 million from the Province of Manitoba and another $1.5 million from the City of Winnipeg's Heritage Investment Reserve Fund.

Earlier this year, Canad Inns said the renovations to the Met were specifically aimed at "retaining the original look, feel and grandeur of the old-style theatre" that opened in 1919.

"It's remarkable, absolutely remarkable inside, kudos to Canad Inns," said McGowan.

Coun. Jenny Gerbasi (Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry), who chairs the city's historical buildings committee, said she remembers going to movies at the Met as a child and welcomes the restoration.

**Splendour restored**

**"It was a beautiful luxurious place at one time and now it is being restored so that it will again be full of people and activity."**

Coun. Jenny Gerbasi, chair of the city's historical buildings committee

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# 'PEGGER WOULD TAKE THE TRAIN TO MONDRAGON EVERY DAY

ABOVE-AVERAGE JOE
Kerri Salki

Meet Aaron. He's a socially conscious and community-minded citizen. At the moment he volunteers through Spark with CEDnet, a place that matches community organizations to volunteers with special skills. His latest interest is co-ops, which he believes extends our values in a political democracy to the economy. With his dedication, Aaron makes it clear that he is fully committed to making the world we live in a better place.

**Name:** Aaron Russin
**Born:** Vancouver
**Occupation:** Member service co-ordinator, Peg City Co-op
**Favourite Winnipeg Restaurant:** The Lo-Pub (before it closed). Now's it's Mondragon.
**Train or Plane?** Train, but I never get to take it.
**Book you're reading:** What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets by Michael Sandel.

Aaron Russin CONTRIBUTED

**What one word describes you?** Awkward.
**What movie makes you laugh out loud?** Ghostbusters.
**Favourite Holiday?** Thanksgiving.
**Last time you cried?** When my dog Seamus died last year.
**Beatles or Stones?** Beatles.
**Your last meal would be?** Mushroom-nut burger with fries.
*Just because they're not famous doesn't mean they're not a somebody. If you know an Above Average Joe that you think needs recognition, email me at kerri.salki@102clearfm.rogers.com.* KERRI IS PART OF 'THE JOE SHOW WITH KERRI AND BUBBA' ON 102.3 CLEARFM FROM 5:30–9 A.M.

# Winnipeg's MTS Centre to be taken over by dragons

Actors Riley Miner and Gemma Nguyen, who play Hiccup and Astrid in Dreamworks' How to Train Your Dragon Live Spectacular, will take to the skies on the backs of dragons in the MTS Centre. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

## Worldwide tour. How to Train Your Dragon Live Spectacular coming to Winnipeg

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Fire-breathing dragons are set to take over airspace normally reserved for the Winnipeg Jets when Dreamworks' How to Train Your Dragon Live Spectacular soars into the MTS Centre today.

The worldwide tour, created by the producers of the Academy Award-nominated film, features 23 dragons — some weighing as much as 20 tons with wingspans of over 40 feet.

"We definitely have to watch out for the dragons," said Riley Miner, who plays the lead role of Hiccup, and spends as much time dodging dragons in the air as he does on the ground during the show. "I run on walls, fly on dragons, and swim without any water during the show.

"I used to have a little bit of fear of heights, but this show has definitely nullified that fear."

The live production follows Hiccup and Astrid, Viking teenagers living in a mythical world filled with wild dragons and, like the film, the show is based on the book by Cressida Cowell.

While the dragons are a little on the big and scary side, Gemma Nguyen, who plays Astrid, said every audience they've played to since the show started in Australia last March have fallen in love with the beasts by the time the curtain falls.

"It's just like the journey Hiccup goes through meeting the dragon — he was scared at first but he develops a relationship with these dragons as the show goes on," she said. "By the end of the show kids always love the dragons."

**Ticket sales**

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Kelly Cattani, left, Johnny Royal and Ben Kramer have been slaving in the kitchen to create dishes for Baconfest II: The Next Level, which gets frying on Thursday night. TYLER PEACOCK/FOR METRO

# Welcome to hog heaven

**Mouth-watering.**
Baconfest promises to take Winnipeg bacon lovers to the next level

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Winnipeg's saltiest fundraising benefit is back.

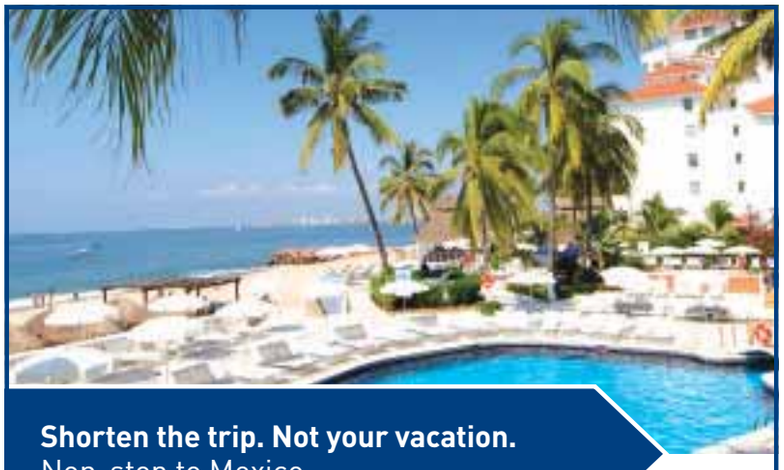
Baconfest II: The Next Level will bring bacon, bacon and, yes, more bacon to the hungry masses on Thursday night to raise money for the United Way of Winnipeg.

"Basically, we get all the top chefs in Winnipeg together and everybody comes up with a dish themed around bacon," said Ben Kramer, executive chef of the University of Winnipeg's Diversity Food Services and one of the organizers and chefs of the second annual bacon extravaganza. "We all set up tables, sample bacon, and drink beer and wine."

This year, chefs from 13 restaurants including Bistro Seven and a Quarter, Segovia, Deseo Bistro and Kramer's Elements — The Restaurant are volunteering their time and expertise.

Kramer says he's taking matters to the next level by creating dishes using bacon from animals other than pigs. "Technically, bacon is cured and smoked pork belly, but you can do the same process with any animal. Really, it's about salt, smoke and fat. So we did goat bacon, we've got horse bacon, longhorn beef and even veal bacon."

Baconfest gets underway at 7 p.m. in the atrium of the U of W's Richardson Complex for the Environment (599 Portage Ave.). Tickets are $100 and are available at the door.



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# It's a Gaza deal ... after 1,500 air strikes and 1,500 rocket attacks

**The question.** Can two bitter foes, Israel and Hamas, make the ceasefire hold?

Will it last?

That was the question being asked in Israel and Gaza on Wednesday as a ceasefire was forged after an incredible two days of intense shuttle diplomacy.

"I just hope they commit to peace," said Abdel-Nasser al-Tom, from northern Gaza.

Despite the fears, joy broke out like an explosion.

Cheering Gazans emerged from their homes after a week, flooding the streets in wild celebration.

Gunmen fired in the air, and chants of "God is great" echoed from mosque loudspeakers.

Residents hugged and kissed in celebration, while others distributed candy and waved Hamas flags.

Israel and the Hamas militant group agreed to the ceasefire Wednesday after eight days of the fiercest fighting in nearly four years.

They promised to halt air strikes and rocket attacks that have killed scores and to ease an Israeli blockade constricting the Gaza Strip.

The truce will "improve conditions for the people of Gaza and provide security for the people of Israel," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in Cairo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Morsi's moment**

**The ceasefire deal marks a startling trajectory for the mediator — Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi.**

- **New role.** The man who refused to talk to the Israelis or even say the country's name finally turned himself into Israel's protector.

In this image taken from Egyptian state television, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton shakes hands with Egypt's foreign minister, Mohammed Kamel Amr, in Cairo after a ceasefire was announced between Israel and Hamas. Clinton shuttled across the region to help end the fighting. EGYPTIAN STATE TELEVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Baird speaks out**

## *Hamas and Israel? It's not complex*

There has been nothing complicated about the conflict between Israel and Hamas, says Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird.

John Baird

"It's not a complex issue," he said as a ceasefire was declared.

"You have a terrorist group launching rockets against Israel."

But the broader question of Mideast peace is far more complicated, he stressed, adding he's "cautiously optimistic" about the ceasefire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Web war. Israel fighting with Twitter, Facebook

Israel is using social media to pre-empt a publicity pounding over its Gaza offensive.

It's furiously tweeting and posting Facebook updates from a "media bunker."

The instant they heard about a bus bombing in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, scores of tech-savvy youth in Israel's media command centre in Jerusalem sprang into action.

They began flooding social media with updates and created a graphic exclaiming: "We didn't send in our ground troops, but they sent in theirs!"

Hundreds of volunteers have produced and posted videos and graphics from Israel's point of view.

"They used to say the Elders of Zion controlled the media. Well, here are the youngsters of Zion who are running it," said Daniel Seaman, a chief at the Ministry of Public Diplomacy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel fought back via social media after this bus was bombed in Tel Aviv Wednesday. Twenty-seven people were hurt. ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top leader steps in

## Ahmadinejad grilling blocked

Iran's supreme leader has stopped the country's parliament from grilling the president over the nation's plummeting currency and economic crisis, the official IRNA news agency reports.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told parliament to drop its plan to grill President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, saying it would benefit Iran's enemies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sex-scandal fallout

## Back at work ... under a cloud

Gen. John Allen, caught up in the David Petraeus sex scandal, has returned to Kabul to resume his duties as the top U.S. and NATO commander.

The Pentagon is investigating potentially "inappropriate" correspondence between Allen and a woman linked to the former CIA chief. Petraeus resigned after admitting an extramarital affair.

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Congo policemen, foreground, and civilians gather during a M23 rally in Goma, Congo, Wednesday. The rebel group has seized the strategic provincial capital of Goma, home to more than one million people. MELANIE GOUBY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# M23 rebels vow to take all Congo as troops defect

**Gaining ground.**
Soldiers, police switch sides in conflict, as UN accuses rebel group of executions, rape and recruiting child soldiers

The M23 rebels pressed ahead with their seizure of territory and towns in eastern Congo on Wednesday and said they intend to topple the government of President Joseph Kabila.

The rebels took control of the eastern Congo town of Sake in a bid to move toward the provincial capital of Bukavu.

"Kabila has to go. We want our country back," said M23 Col. Vianney Kazarama, to cheers from thousands gathered at the stadium in Goma, which was seized by the rebels on Tuesday. "We are now going to Kinshasa. No one will divide this country."

Nearly 3,000 Congolese army soldiers and police defected to the rebels in Goma on Wednesday and turned in their weapons at the stadium rally.

A Congo policeman hands in his weapon to M23 rebels during an M23 rally in Goma on Wednesday. MELANIE GOUBY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Even as the rebels consolidated their gains, the presidents of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda called on them to give up the territory they now control.

The M23 is made up of hundreds of officers who deserted the Congo army in April this year. Neighbouring Rwanda has supplied trained soldiers and weapons, according to a report by United Nations experts.

The speed with which the M23 has seized Goma and the surrounding countryside, rich in minerals, exposes the weakness of President Joseph Kabila's government, say experts.

Strewn with bodies, burned-out vehicles and abandoned tanks, the road between Goma and Sake showed evidence of Tuesday's fighting.

M23 soldiers in vehicles patrolled the streets of Sake, 27 kilometres south of Goma. As in Goma, most residents accepted the rebels' presence.

"We only want peace," said Innocent Rumabo, in Sake.

Other residents complained of rapes carried out Tuesday night. "I know two women who were raped (and) there are more in the area," said one Goma resident who insisted on anonymity for fear of retaliation.

A UN spokesman in New York said the nearly 1,500 UN peacekeepers in Goma held their fire to avoid triggering a battle. The peacekeepers "cannot substitute for the efforts of national forces" in Congo, said spokesman Eduardo del Buey.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Congolese man who lost his legs during fighting in 2008 sits with his prosthetic legs near Goma's football stadium Wednesday. Thousands of Congolese soldiers and policemen defected to the M23 rebels, as rebel leaders vowed to take control of all Congo. MARC HOFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Emergency talks**

**In neighbouring Uganda, the presidents of Uganda, Rwanda and Congo resolved to put pressure on the M23 rebels to give up territory they have captured, according to a statement released at the end of the emergency talks.**

- Congo's President Joseph Kabila said he was willing to negotiate directly with the M23 rebels, a reversal from his previous refusal to talk with the rebels.
- Rwanda's President Paul Kagame reiterated Rwanda's denial that it is supporting the rebels, saying each government "must bear the burden" of its own internal problems, according to a diplomat close to the talks, who insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about the emergency summit.
- Uganda, which was also implicated in the Congo violence in a report by UN experts, denies supporting the rebels.

**Report**

## *Rwanda behind M23 rebels: UN*

The Rwandan military is commanding and supporting the rebel force that overtook the towns of Sake and Goma in the Congo this week, according to a United Nations report released Wednesday.

The report says, "The government of Rwanda continues to violate the arms embargo by providing direct military support to the M23 rebels, facilitating recruitment, encouraging and facilitating desertions from the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and providing arms, ammunition, intelligence and political advice."

The report also accuses Uganda of involvement. Uganda has said it would pull its troops out of UN peacekeeping operations if it was named in the report.

Both Rwanda and Uganda have denied supporting the M23 rebel movement.

The UN accuses the M23 of crimes including recruiting child soldiers, summary executions and rape.

On Wednesday, the UN's special representative for Congo said the 19,000-strong UN peacekeeping force there is being stretched thin by multiple rebel militias.

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# Last gunman from Mumbai attacks executed in secrecy

**26-11.** Hanging sparks celebrations for some, offers closure for others

India executed the lone surviving gunman from the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks early Wednesday, four years after Pakistani gunmen blazed through India's financial capital, killing 166 people over three days and throwing relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours into a tailspin.

Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, a Pakistani citizen, was hung in secrecy at a jail in Pune, a city near Mumbai, after Indian President Pranab Mukherjee rejected his plea for clemency.

News of the execution was widely cheered in India, with political parties organizing public celebrations and some people setting off firecrackers. But for those more deeply touched by the events of 26-11, as the attack is known in India, the hanging offered only a partial catharsis.

"This is an incomplete justice as the masterminds and main handlers of 26-11 are still absconding," said Kavita Karkare, the widow of Hemant Karkare, the chief of Mumbai's anti-terrorism squad who was killed while pursuing Kasab. "They should also be hanged."

Indian officials accuse Pakistan's intelligence agency of working with the militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba to plan the attack — an allegation Islamabad denies.

India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since they were carved out of British India in 1947, suspended peace talks after the Mumbai attack.

Since 2011, the two countries have rekindled the peace talks, but New Delhi's frustration with Pakistan's failure to bring those responsible for the attack to justice has complicated those efforts.

The attacks were also a major embarrassment for India's security establishment, which failed to stop a small group of gunmen who entered Mumbai on a dinghy from running roughshod over the police and elite security forces for three days.

Some in India felt Kasab should have been hanged publicly. Others complained that the government had spent too much money on the care and feeding of a vilified criminal and said that for justice to be done, the attack's masterminds — not just their foot soldier — must be punished.

Mukesh Agarwal, who was shot in his right arm during the attack, called Kasab's execution "the best possible gift" from the Indian government. But he said "instead of secretly hanging him, the government should have hanged him publicly."

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Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party dance in Mumbai on Wednesday as they celebrate the news of Mohammed Ajmal Kasab's execution. RAFIG MAGBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An activist sets a poster of Mohammed Ajmal Kasab ablaze. RAFIG MAGBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Recounting the carnage**

**Kasab was one of nine gunmen who entered Mumbai on Nov. 26, 2008, killing 166.**

- **The attack.** Armed with phones, grenades and automatic weapons, the gunmen fanned out across the city targeting luxury hotels, a Jewish centre, a restaurant and a crowded train station.
- **Infamous gunman.** A photo of Kasab striding through Mumbai's train station with riffle in hand became an iconic image of the siege.
- **Brought to justice.** An Indian judge sentenced Kasab to death in May 2010 for war against India, murder, terrorism and other charges.

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# Budget watchdog takes Tories to court

**Matter of jurisdiction.** Budget officer taking on creators of his job over withheld figures

Canada's budget watchdog is taking the Harper government to court over its refusal to turn over information about austerity measures.

Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page on Wednesday filed a reference application with the Federal Court seeking a judgment affirming he has the jurisdiction to search for the information.

In a covering letter signed by Ottawa constitutional lawyer Joseph Magnet and Tolga Yalkin of the PBO, Page cites the "urgency" of resolving the issue quickly and proposes numerous dates for the hearing from Nov. 29 to Jan. 11.

The budget officer has complained for months that government departments have not been forthcoming with his requests on budget cuts, staff reductions and impacts on services.

In response, the government said Page is overreaching and that his mandate is to examine government spending, not government restraint.

Opposition leaders said Page had no choice but to go to court to perform his duty and accused the Conservatives of carrying out a vendetta against the budget officer, a position they created.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Obstruction?**

**"They've done everything to shut down Kevin Page since he started in that job."**

**NDP Leader Tom Mulcair**
on the Conservative government

Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page has filed an application with the Federal Court to ensure he can get access to information. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

## Charity. Patrick Stewart, Morgan Freeman want you to wait for the beep

Imagine having William Shatner supply your outgoing-voice-mail message. Or maybe you'd prefer Morgan Freeman coolly telling callers to wait for the beep. Or perhaps having Betty White joke around is more your speed.

All it takes is $299 US and some luck.

The advocacy group Autism Speaks is offering custom-recorded messages from those celebrities as well as Will Ferrell, Carrie Fisher, Tom Hanks, Derek Jeter, Leonard Nimoy, Patrick Stewart and Ed Asner.

From Dec. 3 to 9, a limited number of 20-second-long MP3 messages will be recorded by each celebrity on a first-come, first-served basis for fans to do with as they wish. All requests must be of the PG variety.

Morgan Freeman GETTY IMAGES

Asner, the curmudgeonly Emmy Award-winner of The Mary Tyler Moore Show, and Lou Grant dreamed up the fundraiser with his son Matt, who works for Autism Speaks.

"I think people will get a charge out of it," says Asner. "I'll probably say, 'What are you wearing?' Or, 'Take it off.' Something like that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Spills and shills**

### Liberal critic calls Tories lackeys for Big Oil, resigns

Ottawa MP David McGuinty abruptly resigned as the Liberal party's natural-resources critic Wednesday after suggesting Conservative MPs from Alberta are shills for the oil industry and should go home. His statements capped a day in which Liberals scrambled to contain the damage from his remarks, which came just days before a by-election in Calgary, where the Liberals have high hopes for an upset.

"I would like to unreservedly and unequivocally apologize for comments which I made with respect to parliamentary colleagues from the province of Alberta," said McGuinty, who is the brother of Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Conservatives, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, pounced on McGuinty's comments, accusing the Liberals of long-standing bias against Alberta. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Online privacy**

### Facebook mulls an end to brush with democracy

Facebook is proposing to end its practice of letting users vote on changes to its privacy policies.

The world's biggest social-media company said in a blog post Wednesday that its voting mechanism, which is triggered only if enough people comment on proposed changes, has become a system that emphasizes quantity of responses over quality of discussion. Users tend to leave one or two-word comments objecting to changes instead of more in-depth responses.

As part of the 2009 policy, users' votes only count if more than 30 per cent of all Facebook's active users partake. That did not happen during either of the two times users voted and it's unlikely that it will now, given that more than 300 million people would have to participate.

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Replaced with iPhones

## Another U.S. agency stops using BlackBerrys

BlackBerry smartphones are being dropped by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board in favour of the new iPhone 5, with "performance issues" cited as the reason.

The Washington-based board, the latest American government agency to turn away from the BlackBerry, said it needs reliable devices for its employees to investigate accidents, often in remote locations.

"These Apple devices will replace the NTSB's existing BlackBerry devices, which have been failing both at inopportune times and at an unacceptable rate," the board said in a recent document. Research In Motion has lost several other U.S. departments and agencies as clients.

They include the Defence Department, the Transportation Security Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which have also chosen the iPhone.

Although the National Transportation Safety Board didn't go into many details about why it's dropping BlackBerry smartphones, RIM has had two email and text message service outages in the last year.

The latest switch by a U.S. government agency comes before the launch of RIM's new BlackBerry 10 operating system in early 2013 — widely considered a make or break product launch for the company.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

**DOLLAR** 100.35¢ (+0.08¢)

**TSX** 12,100.06 (+53.78)

**OIL** $87.38 US (+63¢)

**GOLD** $1,728.20 US (+$4.60)

**Natural gas:** $3.90 US (+7¢)
**Dow Jones:** 12,836.89 (+48.38)

# Holiday shoppers not too keen on apps, survey finds

**Retail.** Mobile discount-hunting can give buyers an edge, but it's been slow to catch on in Canada

An Associated Press reporter demonstrates a shopping app on her phone in San Francisco. While there are a slew of smartphone apps that can help save time and money this holiday season, a new survey suggests most Canadians don't plan on using them. JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smartphones can scan barcodes and offer real-time discounts but most Canadians won't bother using apps while shopping this holiday season, a new survey suggests.

About 70 per cent of those surveyed weren't planning to use a mobile application or feature to help buy gifts, according to the results of a poll commissioned by wireless carrier Mobilicity.

Smartphone apps can give users notifications of what discounts are being offered in a mall and at what stores, said Anthony Booth, Mobilicity's chief customer officer.

"The real astute users are the people who have figured out how to take advantage of things in real time by using their smartphone," Booth said from Toronto.

Black Friday, the day after U.S. Thanksgiving, has come to Canada and generally marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season. Apps such as TGI Black Friday and Black Friday Deals and Coupons allows smartphone users to search from thousands discounts.

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## Prepaid Visa. RBC drops expiry dates, most fees ahead of Ottawa's new regulations

Canada's largest banking group has dropped expiry dates and most of the fees on its prepaid Visa cards in the wake of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announcing plans to introduce new rules for the cards.

RBC Royal Bank said Wednesday it will continue to charge a one-time flat fee of $3.95 to issue the prepaid card but all the money loaded will remain available to make purchases. Its prepaid cards will continue to show an expiry date but a new card can be requested at no charge if a balance remains after that date.

Flaherty said last month that the government believes it's not appropriate for consumers to lose money if a gift card expires after a period of time. He said the government wants better disclosure of the terms of conditions of prepaid credit cards.

Flaherty's press secretary, Kathleen Perchaluk, issued an email statement saying the government would continue a "pro-consumer agenda."

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# Four-legged robot may help at Japan's Fukushima meltdown site

Toshiba Corp. unveiled a robot Wednesday that the company says can withstand high radiation and help in nuclear disasters. But it remains unclear what exactly the new machine will be capable of doing if and when it gets the go-ahead to enter Japan's crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

The four-legged robot can climb over debris and venture into radiated areas off-limits to human workers. One significant innovation, Toshiba said, is that its wireless network can be controlled in high radiation, automatically seeking better transmission when reception becomes weak.

But the machine, which looks like an ice cooler on wobbly metal legs, also appears prone to glitches. The robot took a jerky misstep during a demonstration to reporters, freezing with one leg up in the air.

Still, Tokyo Electric Power Co. said it might use the robot to inspect the suppression chamber of the Fukushima plant, where a devastating meltdown took place after a mammoth tsunami slammed into northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011.

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Robotics technology

- Japan boasts some of the world's most sophisticated robotics technology, but the inability of such delicate gadgetry to help out with the Fukushima disaster was widely criticized.

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# NHL COMMISSIONER GETS CANDID

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

What follows is an exclusive, in-good-faith, "marathon" interview with Gary Bettman, commissioner of the National Hockey League.

While it's true the commissioner has been talking to other media throughout the NHL lockout, Mr. Bettman told me some exclusive things — things so striking and unexpected that he may deny ever having talked to me, or, indeed, having heard of me.

NHL insiders say that, using the logic of contract negations, his refusal to acknowledge my existence is a sign our talk went well.

**He Says:** Mr. Bettman, let's drop the gloves. What can the league do to win back fans after this lockout, which everybody outside of the players and owners believes was unnecessary and wrong?

**Bettman:** Well, we're very fortunate to have great fans in Canada that have nothing else to do in the winter that isn't illegal. As for Americans, they haven't noticed yet that we've been gone. So don't tell them, OK?

**He Says:** Don't you think this cavalier attitude will only reinforce Canadians' belief that you don't care about the fans, delivering a Raffi Torres-like check to the head to our national game?

**Bettman:** Well, first of all, I don't know what a Raffi Torres is, but let me say that I'm confident the fans will be back.

**He Says:** How can you be so sure?

**Bettman:** If you read news reports from after the last lockout, you see headlines like: "Hockey: Does anyone still care?" next to headlines like, "Maple Leafs' second-unit penalty kill needs tweaking or heads will roll."

**He Says:** I see your point. But the NHL game was, before The Lockout: Part 2, at the height of its popularity. The hockey was faster, the women behind the benches were hotter, and mentions in late-night comedy monologues were at an all-time low. How did you kill all that momentum?

**Bettman:** You have to understand that there's been a huge philosophical divide between each side.

**He Says:** I noticed that in the various proposals. The players said the repeating lockout was an example of Nietzsche's eternal recurrence, while you adhered to the deconstructionism of Jacques Derrida, refusing to make whole.

**Bettman:** We spent one meeting talking about whether contract negotiations really mean anything in a cold, uncaring universe. We found a lot of common ground there. But that's not what I meant. What I meant is that we have a different attitude than the players, because we don't care what people think of us.

**He Says:** That's refreshingly honest.

**Bettman:** The players will always be at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, because they're heroes, betraying their fans. But the management don't have to be heroes. No Canadian kid says, "I want to be an owner." Or commissioner. Keep it under your helmet, but I'm not very popular.

**He Says:** Your secret's safe with me. I want to thank you for your candour, Mr. Bettman. And remember, keep your stick on the ice.

**Bettman:** I'm sorry, what?

**He Says:** Uh, just forget it.

**Straight talk**

**"The players will always be at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, because they're heroes, betraying their fans."**

**NHL commissioner Gary Bettman**
told He Says in an honest interview

**NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman sits down to talk with He Says regarding the lockout.** CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# Choo-choo-chocolatey express

YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**World record**

## Longest chocolate structure rolls into Brussels

Commuters take pictures of the world's longest chocolate structure as it is displayed at Brussels Midi train station on Wednesday.

The train, which took 784 hours of labour to create, measures 34.05 metres (111 feet) in total length and was prepared with 1,285 kilograms (2,832 lb.) of Belgian chocolate and was built by master chocolatier Andrew Farrugia from Malta.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**It's as long as...**

**Let's see what else compares to the 111 feet of chocolatey heaven.**

- **NBA basketball court.** An NBA basketball court is just a smidgen shorter than the train, measuring 94 feet long.
- **Baseball diamond.** The distance between each base in a baseball diamond is 90 feet.
- **The Mayflower.** The ship that transported English and Dutch Separatists to Massachusetts was 100-feet long, slightly shorter than the chocolatey train.

**Culinary concoctions**

**It's a sweet time to be a world record holder. Here's some other culinary concoctions that have set world records recently.**

- **Cream cake.** Chefs in Switzerland took the title for the longest cake ever — a whopping 1,200 metres (3,937 feet) of sugar, flour and cream in November 2012. That's more than a kilometre of cake!
- **Chocolate bar.** The longest chocolate bar was measured at 15.9 metres (52 feet) long and 2.03 metres (6.7 feet) wide in Bologna, Italy in 2011.

**Calorie counting**

## 6.5M

**The model train packs an impressive 6.5 million calories. But, the train isn't the largest chocolate structure in the world. That title goes to a California bakery that built a massive Mayan temple out of the dark sweet that weights three times as much as the train.**

Metropolitan Panel

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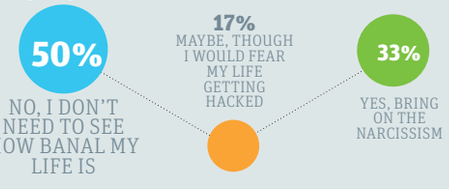
50%
NO, I DON'T NEED TO SEE HOW BANAL MY LIFE IS
17%
MAYBE, THOUGH I WOULD FEAR MY LIFE GETTING HACKED
33%
YES, BRING ON THE NARCISSISM

**Twitter**

**@robotpilot:**
The Winnipeg Humane Society's Kitty Midnight Madness sale video may be the best thing I've ever seen. #afpcongress

**@AllieTess:**
Downtown Winnipeg drivers get your lives together !! I want to monster truck over all of this traffic.

**@WeatherInThePeg:**
Last time I can say it for a while: another beautiful day across the #RRV with a mix of sun/clouds and highs just over 0°C. #Winnipeg

**@rav_is_awesome:**
A guy on my bus looked like Dan Harmon from behind and the side then I remembered I live in Winnipeg, so obviously it wasn't him :(

**@_lindsayjohnson:**
Winnipeg City Transit: Drives past old ladies. You've hit a new low.

metro

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# It's all good in the hood for artist Cold Specks

**I Predict a Graceful Expulsion.** Musician's parents didn't know she quit school until they saw her on Stroumbo

BACKSTAGE PASS
Jared Story
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Polaris Music Prize nominated artist Cold Specks plays the Park Theatre on Monday. AUTUMN DE WILDE

Cold Specks is the stage name of Al Spx, the pseudonym of an Etobicoke-born, London-based singer-songwriter. Despite her aliases, she's quickly making a name for herself.

The 24-year old's debut album I Predict a Graceful Expulsion — released in May via Arts & Crafts and Mute Records — was shortlisted for the 2012 Polaris Music Prize, an award given annually to the best full-length Canadian album as determined by more than 200 members of the national media.

The story goes that Spx recorded "a quite stripped down collection of incomplete ideas" in her bedroom and sent the demo to a friend in Wales.

His brother, producer/engineer Jim Anderson, heard the rough mix and eventually convinced Spx to come to the U.K. and record a real album.

"It all went according to plan," Spx says jokingly during a forced tour stop in small-town Texas due to van troubles.

"At first, it was a bit difficult because I had never played with other musicians before.

"I hadn't even picked up an electric guitar until that point."

On I Predict a Graceful Expulsion, Spx is joined by such musicians as Anderson, pianist Thomas Greene, and drummer Rob Ellis, who's worked with artists like PJ Harvey and Anna Calvi.

"They're a really skilled group of guys, so I was a bit insecure about my skills, but they're all my dearest friends in the world now," Spx says.

"We have great chemistry onstage and in the studio. I couldn't ask for a better band."

Funnily enough, when Spx was working in the U.K. with these top-notch musicians, her family thought she was on vacation.

See, Spx's Somalian-born parents pushed her into college, hoping she'd attain a law degree.

Not only did she quit school without mom and pop's knowledge, Spx spent her tuition money on the flight to London.

**They are the best**

**"They're a really skilled group of guys, so I was a bit insecure about my skills, but they're all my dearest friends in the world now. ... We have great chemistry onstage and in the studio. I couldn't ask for a better band."**

Cold Specks, a.k.a. Al Spx

In fact, her parents weren't even aware of Spx's newfound career until her mother saw a Cold Specks performance on George Stroumboulopoulos Tonight.

"I think they're cool with it now," Spx says.

"They were a bit horrified at first because I was supposed to be in school and instead I was recording an album halfway around the world."

"Understandably, they were just a bit miffed, but now it's all good in the hood."

Cold Specks performs at the Park Theatre on Monday.

Local singer-songwriter Demetra Penner opens the show. Tickets are $20 at the Park, Music Trader and ticketbreak.com. Showtime is 8 p.m.

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Singer Aimee Mann has turned to an AM radio hit for inspiration on her new album. GETTY IMAGES

# Mann details the less than charmed life indie musicians live

**New album.** Aimee Mann reveals unique inspiration behind latest effort and the struggles facing modern artists

The musical inspiration for Aimee Mann's latest disc may come as a surprise. It certainly did for Larry Lee.

Mann's Charmer hearkens back to the pop-rock structures of her 1990s discs Whatever and I'm With Stupid, and ultimately even further, to radio-friendly hits from 30 and 40 years ago. That's her pop music, not the kind made by Taylor Swift, Beyoncé or Katy Perry. In fact, she zeroed in on one song in particular: Jackie Blue, a 1975 hit by the Ozark Mountain Daredevils.

"To me, that's the perfect pop song and was kind of the touchstone for the whole record," said Mann, who's 52. "In fact, there are certain songs (on Charmer) where it's basically a homage to that song."

Charmer, which debuted at No. 33 on Billboard's 200 albums chart in September, is not a concept album, but Mann finds discs that are more than a collection of unrelated songs more satisfying to the artist and listener.

Mann went through record company nightmares early in her career, and now makes music on her own label, SuperEgo. That doesn't make her immune to the industry's problems. She said many fans can't see the connection between illegally downloading music and the struggles of their favourite artists.

"If I don't have enough money to make another album, I can't make another album," she said. "That's how it goes. You can't think about it. Am I suddenly going to appeal to people's consciences and make them not steal music? If you don't like it, great, then I can understand you not buying it. But if you like it and end up stealing it, then I just think you're a jerk. Of all the people to steal from. Musicians? Really?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Music videos**

**Two videos for Charmer give Mann the chance to display her humour**

- **Big names.** Jon Hamm and humorists Tom Scharpling and Jon Wurster appear in the video for Labrador. It shows Mann tricked into remaking the video for Voices Carry, her 1985 hit.

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# Alec sharpens Claus for edgy festive role

**Rise of the Guardians.** Baldwin voices an alternate Santa covered in tattoos for new animated film

OLIVIA MORROW
Metro World News in New York

Alec Baldwin is widely recognized for the huge variety of roles he's played throughout his long, successful career, but you might not have expected him to tackle his latest character in the Dreamworks animated film, Rise of the Guardians.

Baldwin gives voice to an unconventional Santa Claus, with a thick, brutish accent and arms full of tattoos. One of the film's producers, Christina Steinberg, puts it perfectly: "Who's more naughty and nice than Alec?"

Although Baldwin has voiced numerous characters in past films — including Madagascar 2 and Cats & Dogs — you'd expect that children's films wouldn't be of much appeal considering his only daughter is now a teenager.

"I think that people all say that they want to ... do this children's programming for your kids," he says. "My daughter is 17 now, my daughter is watching God-knows-what.

"It's kind of frightening, but I think that when they showed me that these were going to be edgier versions of these characters — when you see the Santa Claus figure it's usually ... a rosy-cheeked, saintly man with not a lot of dimension — (it) was a lot more real, so I loved that."

Baldwin talked about his personal beliefs regarding Santa Claus when he was a child and how he discovered it was all a myth: "I walked into a room and my sister was wrapping presents with my mother and I was like, 'Wait, what?'" he explains.

"I think they only told me because the more kids my mother had, the more wrapping they had to do. I immediately became enlisted as a wrapper." But just what was it like for Baldwin to play the legendary character?

"The key with these kinds of films is to work your way toward a much warmer kind of humanistic place, literally in your voice. ... The thing for me is to try to vary the tone. ... You want to try to keep it warm, there's a great deal of love and warmth in the piece, (but) there's always a chance to make it really, really bombastic, especially with the Santa Claus character.

"There's a chance to make it very strident. The guy is very, very powerful in some scenes — but in other scenes you want to make it silly and fun and child-friendly."

**Quoted**

**"I walked into a room and my sister was wrapping gifts with my mother and I was like 'Wait, what!'"**

**Alec Baldwin, actor**
On when he started to question the existence of Santa Claus.

**What's next?**

**Quality over quantity.** As he prepares to say goodbye to 30 Rock, it seems Baldwin's life is slowing down, as he says his career is all about quality rather than quantity now. "I'd rather just stay home with my wife and my two dogs and watch TV now. I'd rather watch a movie than make a movie any day," he says.

**On Turning 50.** "I'm at a stage now where it's more like when you were a child where you're very present. When you're kids, everything is very small. ... Then you turn 50 — the world becomes a lot smaller and you'd rather do less things and do them well and have a more satisfying personal life."

Alec Baldwin gives a new voice to Santa Claus. GETTY IMAGE

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Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

# Lohan regrets nothing, could be facing more jail time

Lindsay Lohan has no regrets, she insists, despite the legal and family problems that have plagued her and impacted her career.

"I want to be known as an actress, not a troubled starlet," Lohan tells Us Weekly during a lengthy sit-down interview.

"(I regret) nothing, because then I wouldn't have been able to cry in scenes at the drop of a hat. I have a tattoo, Live without regrets. I'm not saying I wanted to go to a jail cell, but I've drawn from it."

Well, she might have even more to draw from soon.

It looks like she'll have her probation revoked for lying to police after a summer fender-bender, according to TMZ, and that could lead to more jail time for Lohan.

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

**The Word**

## *Rihanna finally makes appearance on 777-tour*

THE WORD
Katarina Matsson
scene@metronews.ca

Rihanna's 777 Tour has taken its toll on journalists and fans who followed the star around the globe.

After a week, their frustration exploded. Constant delays and lack of sleep (those on board had to crash whenever and wherever they had a chance: on coaches, on board the plane or on a floor) and not knowing when the next opportunity to eat and drink would materialize, are circumstances most would endure with joy — if only the main subject of the whole trip would show herself offstage.

After mounting criticism spread like a wildfire online — that's the risk you take when you invite 150 journalists — Rihanna yesterday showed herself on the plane.

Wearing dark sunglasses, she appeared 10 minutes before the plane was due to land after the last leg. She even came close to offering an apology.

"I didn't get to spend as much time as I'd originally planned with you guys. I think you are tired as well, but I wanna now improve so I'm gonna come and sit here with you guys. And thank you everybody for making this trip the s—t," she told the journalists.

**What was the hardest part of the tour?**
The hardest part? I guess trying to balance being a hostess and a performer. I'm supposed to do my show and then shut the f—k up until the next show. Because the two hours we have to fly that's when I can sleep, but I really wanted to hang out and interact with everybody and give everybody my time. So I guess that was difficult.

**Rihanna, can you sum up the tour for us?**
Rock and roll, true friends, press who really want to know the dirt, rarely got any dirt cause I had to be good. I had to be good this time. We would have had a 333 tour if I wasn't good. I wouldn't have lasted. I still sound like s—t right now, but tonight is the last s—t so we are going all the way. No mercy, that's what I mean. I'm gonna put all my energy into this one show.

**Twitter**

**@tyrabanks**
Remember ladies: U don't need a KING to be a QUEEN!

**@Pink**
Wait til ya'll see how much weight I can gain in one meal

**@ElizabethHurley**
How many of my female followers wear skirts/dresses by day? Press events aside, I wear jeans or pants every day without exception #curious

**@SarahKSilverman**
Trying to feel okay about picking up my tofurky thanksgiving meal for 1

Justin Bieber

# Oprah dishes out dating advice for Justin Bieber

While Justin Bieber may still be making attempts to win back ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez, at least one influential personality thinks he should cool it — and maybe revise his previously stated plans to be married by 25, too.

"I think 25 is too young, actually, I really do — particularly for you," Oprah Winfrey told Bieber during a one-on-one interview with the superstar.

"Your whole 20s is about discovering who you really are. You owe that to yourself, particularly because of the business that you're in (where there's) not a lot of self-discovery time because so much is already defined for you."

In other news, prosecutors decided not to file any charges against Bieber after investigators found no evidence that the pop star had kicked and punched a photographer after leaving a movie theatre last month, a document obtained Wednesday states.

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A la mode in many ways: The black short-sleeved dress from H&M ($49.95) on the left is seen accompanied respectively by a Vince fur vest from Holt Renfrew ($1,975), grey cardigan from Topshop at the Bay ($100) and a black jacket with faux-leather sleeves from Dynamite ($49.90). AARON VINCENT ELKAIM / THE CANADIAN PRESS

# A dress fit for four fêtes

**Deck the holidays.** No need to break the bank on several new outfits as you navigate the social circuit this season

Whether you're heading to cocktails, the office bash or a family gathering, a few fashionable additions can add some oomph to your festive wardrobe.

"As much as we know that we've got lots of different parties on our calendar for the holidays, we don't always have to necessarily buy four different outfits," said Julia Cyboran, editor-in-chief of Loulou magazine. "It's all about how you style one main piece."

**Bling it on**

**Trying to select several eye-catching add-ons to amp up your party attire?**

- **Step in style.** In the case of those seeking a little lift, Julia Cyboran said the pointy-toed pump that dominated the fashion runways is emerging as a standout on the market.
- **In the bag.** Cyboran said the solid, structured pillbox clutch will remain a style standout for the holidays, but expect to see envelope clutches in the hands of women heading out on the town.
- **Making a statement.** Bigger is better when it comes to statement jewelry, with large-scale earrings and necklaces among the holiday accessory offerings. While rose gold hit the market last spring, Cyboran said it started to surface a little last winter in watches, belts and earrings, as did chocolate-coloured gold, and both colours have remained a part of the accessory landscape.

**THE STAPLE PIECE**

Cyboran said the little black dress is the wardrobe essential for any holiday look. That's likely music to the ears of cost-conscious fashionistas who may already have an LBD tucked away in their closet or are able to scout out a new, affordable option.

The seemingly season-less style staple has a chameleon-like ability to transform from upscale chic to laid back casual.

Selecting the right style with its own intricate details such as pleating, embellished sleeves and a flattering silhouette can ensure it can work as a stand-alone garment, Cyboran noted.

**Going for glam**

Looking to add a little luxe to your holiday look? Cyboran said teaming your dress with a faux fur topper along with some shimmering sequined booties can instantly infuse a glam touch.

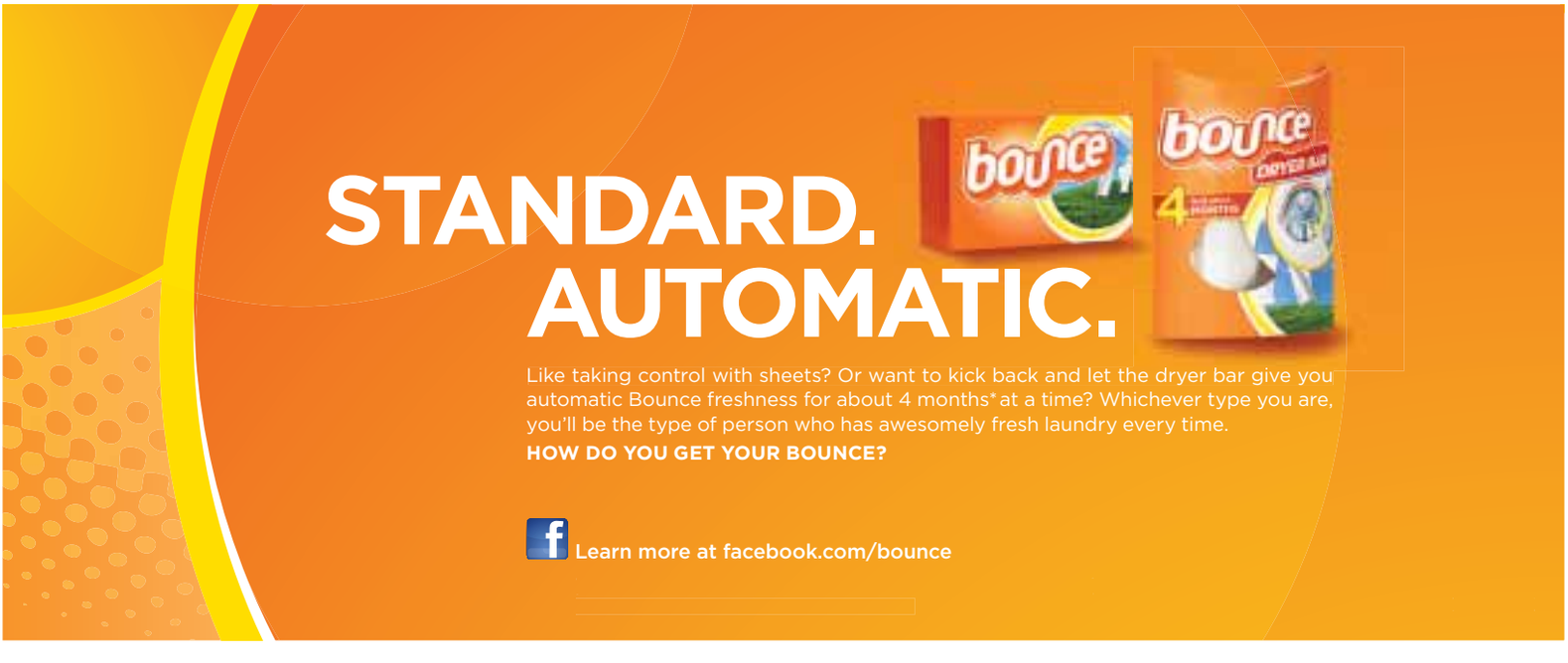
**Comfort casual**

Heading to cottage country or settling in at home for a more low-key holiday celebration? Cyboran suggests taking a robust, comfy warm knit worn with a belt over the dress, along with a pair of slouchy, low-cut boots for a more casual ensemble.

**Office party chic**

If you're pressed for time and need to make a wardrobe quick-change for the office shindig, Cyboran said a blazer with faux leather detailing partnered with a pair of pumps can easily help translate your outfit for after-hours.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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**@Jeanne_Beker:** Excited to be revealing our Plus-Size @EDITbyJeanneB for @AdditionElle to editors today! Watch for it this spring...

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@Jeanne_Beker: Look at the fab rug I'm considering at @AngloOriental http://www.anglo-oriental.com

@Jeanne_Beker: Rob Lowe, hosting @pgawards just butchered my name. But hey, he's damn cute.

The Kit

# Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

## Michelle Yu
## Stylist at Holt Renfrew
## Age: 28

**What she's wearing**
Gifted flannel jacket, Proenza Schouler bag, Alden Ray and Birds of a Feather accessories, River Island skirt, Michael Kors Boots, Club Monaco socks

**Her inspiration**
"Cold weather and this warm flannel jacket I stole from my little brother."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGERM'C KENNETH LICON, LITTLEFASHIONISTO.COM

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# Three big holiday decor trends

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Each year we see new colours being introduced to Christmas decor, as if the ornaments we use every year won't suffice.

Holiday decor usually follows suit with fashion or home decor, and this year it's easier than ever to update your holiday decorations and have a trend-setting home for the holidays.

Consider taking a few good holiday standards and adding a twist in order to make your home trend-worthy this year.

**Use old ornaments**

Colour block old ornaments into a concentrated area — display in a crystal bowl, use on a staircase garland, string on a garland across a window, decorate a spare room or donate to a local shelter. Do this three to four weeks before the holidays to give them time to enjoy.

Glitter Wreath: Mixing gold and silver is all of a sudden OK for holiday decorating this year. CRATEANDBARREL.COM

## Glam with rustic

We've always been told never to mix the precious metals when decorating — mixing silver and gold has always been a faux pas. Silver has topped the list for sometime now. This year, we are taking the warm and cool metal tones and blending them to help create a more humble look. Using them in a rich, formal setting would be too much formality. Using them in a farmhouse or rustic setting helps add understated glam to a space.

Got some outdated trend colours from years past? Group them together and display in a guest room. SUPPLIED

## Add a Punch

Wake up the predictable red-gold-green colour combination by adding a shot of cobalt blue or black to the room, it will give the colour scheme a sense of importance with the shot of darkness. A lot of dark brown entered Christmas decor a few years ago, stemming from the trends in home decor furniture. The brown feels a bit predictable, but when mixed with warm gold and a shot of fuchsia or purple, it can take us back to retro-Halston '70s.

Blown glass ornament: Grey ornaments help to create a sophisticated, cool vibe. URBANBARN.COM

## Shades of Grey

Various neutral colours come and go in holiday decor — there's been taupe, black, sage and the ever popular cream colours. This year, look to inject a bit of inspiration coming from fashion. Grey is the new neutral and helps to make our homes take on a cool air of sophistication during the holidays. Team it with fresh greens, golds and citron for a punchy holiday decor. I suggest using this colour as an accent so not to over spend. Grey is the hot neutral this year, but most likely will not have longevity.

# Finding the greenest Christmas tree

**What's greener, a real or artificial Christmas tree?**
**-Minnie of Vancouver**

QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, how green is your carbon footprint? The question about the greenest Christmas tree has been one of considerable debate among environmentally conscious merry-makers for the past decade.

Both sides have made valid points: advocates of artificial trees take issue with the practice of cutting down trees in the name of festivity, whereas proponents of real trees argue that it's pretty much impossible for a plastic alternative to be green.

The research team at Ellipsos has provided a definitive answer. In its study, the real tree emerges victorious.

According to Ellipsos, the artificial tree has three times more impact on climate change and resource depletion than the natural tree. That's assuming your artificial tree lasts six years. If your tree will last more than 20 years and if you'd have to drive a long way to buy a real tree, the opposite becomes true.

If you're set on buying a real Christmas tree, consider cutting your own tree from lands that must be clear anyway — a win-win. ISTOCK IMAGES

Regardless of whether you choose real or artificial, there are ways to make sure your evergreen is truly green:

**Real Christmas Trees**

1. Buy locally.
2. Choose trees from farms that minimize (or do without) pesticides and herbicides.
3. Cut your own with a provincial permit, from lands that must be kept clear anyway. In many provinces, hydro right-of-ways have to be kept clear. This is a win-win way to meet that mandate.

**Artificial Christmas Trees**

1. Avoid PVCs — the grinchiest of plastics — that most artificial trees are made of. Not only are these hard on the environment, they're bad for your health.
2. Make it last 20 years!

Should neither of these options live up to your desire for a truly sustainable celebration, consider a living Christmas tree. Potted evergreens are just as festive as their cut counterparts! And the recent appearance of rental companies dealing in potted evergreens makes this a hassle-free option even for folks who forgot to dig their tree a hole before the ground froze.

Next Thursday, we'll talk green strategies to decorate that green Christmas tree.

Have questions for the Queen of Green? Write to tpaglaro@davidsuzuki.org or tweet @DavidSuzukiQoG

**Holidays**

# *Time to get your dishes ready!*

**Dear Mr. Butler,**
**With both American Thanksgiving and Christmas on the horizon, what can I do to deal with some of my chipped antique dishes to get ready for the holidays?**
**-Signed, Holiday Lady**

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

What an organized woman you are. Good on you for thinking ahead.

First, you need to know how many people you will be entertaining over the holidays. Will you be having sit down meals or simpler cocktail party gatherings?

Once you know what kind of entertaining you will be doing and how many people you'll be hosting, look through your cupboards to see what you have and what you may want to use.

With your inventory in hand, you now need to find some retailers who specialize in selling single pieces of antique china.

Some cities have great antique markets. For the rest of us who either don't have these antique stores handy or can't find the pieces we need, there are some great online solutions.

Determine what kind of entertaining you will be doing this season before stocking up on inventory. ISTOCK IMAGES

I have found three companies that may be able to help you out, and I have used one of them in particular with great success.

The three most popular companies for china replacements are: replacements.com, chinalane.com and patternsearch.ca.

Remember, these are generally expensive. These sites are a great way to replace one or two broken items like a chipped coffee cup or cracked plate.

But if you plan to purchase an entire inventory, this is by far the most expensive route and one that I would not advise.

**Here's a tip!**

**Remember, anything you have not used in the past year should have a quick wash with hot water and dish soap to get rid of any dust before you use it.**

# FIND A MIX OF OLD AND NEW AT HUT K

## SHOP OFFERS QUALITY, VALUE IN MODERN DESIGN

Step into Hut K and you'll see a mix of the old and the new. Furniture pieces of modern design fill the retailer's 3,000-sq. ft. showroom. They surround you with colour and shape. They even float overhead, suspended from a 40-foot, steel-clad wall. These are 21st-century styles, boasting all the diversity and imagination you'd expect.

And yet, all of this is housed in a heritage building more than a century old, in the Exchange District. And, while the pieces Hut K sells are cutting-edge, they're definitely old-fashioned when it comes to quality and value. Names like Bensen, Blu Dot, Tom Dixon, and Modernica combine modern imagination with traditional dedication to craftsmanship — and all of it for a price most Winnipeggers can afford.

Winnipeggers had been waiting for a store like this. Hut K opened almost one year ago, but its owners, Tim Borys and Dane Kofoed, had seen the need for it long before. "People in this city want well-made furniture with modern, recognizable designs," says Kofoed. "But for years, they had to leave Winnipeg to buy it. We said: 'Let's bring furniture lines to Winnipeg that Winnipeggers themselves are travelling to Vancouver, Toronto, or even New York to purchase. And that's the basis of Hut K."

Borys and Kofoed immerse themselves in modern furniture design — all the better to meet their customers' needs. "We study our product," says Kofoed. "We follow websites, go to trade shows — we even know the brands we don't carry. It's the only way to be sure that we're carrying the right designs, the right pieces, to suit anyone who comes through our door. We do our best to provide a solution for all of our customers."

To find out if Hut K has a solution for you, visit the retailer between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. You and your design team can also book a special shopping appointment with Borys or Kofoed, outside of these hours. This is a private consultation, during which the owners will help you find the ideal pieces for your home, office, or function.

To book this appointment, or to inquire about any of Hut K's products, phone (204) 894-7639.

### ABOUT HUT K

Hut K is located at 74 Princess St., in Downtown Winnipeg — part of a vibrant neighbourhood with many things to see and do. To learn more about it, visit hutk.ca.

74 PRINCESS STREET WINNIPEG /204.894.7639 /HUTK.CA

hutK

# Don't be fooled — not all doughnuts are created equal

Lemon doughnuts generally involve fried dough filled with sticky, tart-sweet yellow goo that tastes more of sugar than of serious lemon.

So here is a way to truly reinvent the lemon doughnut as a baked treat that is at once lighter and more deliciously lemony.

All you have to do is start with a golden cake-style baked doughnut, which is then flecked with the potent flavour of real lemon zest. You finish by topping the doughnuts with a simple powdered sugar-lemon juice glaze. The result is wonderful.

**1.** Heat the oven to 425 F.

**2.** Coat 2 doughnut pans with baking spray; you can use pans designed for either large or small doughnuts. A mini doughnut pan will bake more quickly.

**3.** In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, oil, packed brown sugar, granulated sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, vanilla extract and lemon zest. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, scraping the bowl between additions.

**4.** Stir in half the flour followed by half the buttermilk, then the remaining flour and finally the remaining buttermilk.

**5.** Spoon the batter into the prepared pans, filling the doughnut wells to about 1/4 inch from the top. If using a mini doughnut pan, you will need to bake in multiple batches.

**6.** Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden and cooked through. Allow to cool in the pan for 10 minutes before turning out onto a rack.

**7.** To make the glaze, simply stir together the lemon juice and powdered sugar. Dip the tops of the doughnuts in the glaze and allow them to set or enjoy immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Ingredients**

**12 portions**
**Start to finish: 45 minutes**

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, room temperature
- 1/4 cup vegetable or canola oil
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 2 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 cup powdered sugar

**Baked Lemon Doughnuts**

These delicious doughnuts are baked. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Cookbook of the Week**

## Pick up, munch and repeat

Forget the fork and spoon, because the 100 desserts in Abigail Johnson Dodge's Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets can be devoured without. Dodge whisks together step-by-step baking instructions for a sweet-shop sampler of treats. No-fail recipes for sugary delights (along with delicious drizzles and favourite toppings) abound in this collection. Among the portable treats in Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets are Triple Threat Chocolate Squares, Toasted Coconut Snowball Cupcakes, Cinnamon Toast Scones, Frozen Chocolate Papaya Wedges and more.
METRO

# Sweet marries salty in Chocolate Caramel Squares

This recipe makes 36 squares. NEWS CANADA

Baking is a great family activity as the weather cools and cookie exchange season nears. It's as simple as booking an hour in your schedule and preparing for the fun. According to the baking experts at Robin Hood, the key to a great family baking activity is choosing a recipe that everyone will enjoy making together. Start with this one for Sweet and Salty Chocolate Caramel Squares.

**1.** Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a 9-inch (23 cm) square baking pan with parchment paper, overlapping sides for easy removal.

**2.** In a medium bowl, combine flour and baking soda.

**3.** In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat butter and sugars until just combined. Add eggs and vanilla and mix until smooth. Add flour and baking soda and mix on low, until dough is formed. Stir in half of chocolate (150 g).

**4.** Bring caramel flavoured sauce to a boil over medium heat in a medium saucepan. Stir constantly, cook 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

**5.** Divide dough in half. Press half into prepared pan. Spread thickened caramel flavoured sauce over dough. Sprinkle with 1/2 tsp (2 ml) sea salt. Drop remaining dough over caramel flavoured sauce and spread until covered.

**6.** Bake 25-30 minutes or until light golden brown. Melt reserved chocolate (150 g) and pour evenly on top of bars. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 tsp (2 ml) sea salt. Let cool. Cut into squares.
NEWS CANADA/ ROBINHOOD.CA

**Ingredients**

- 2 cups (500 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) baking soda
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) butter, melted
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp (10 ml) pure vanilla extract
- 10 oz (300 g) chopped swiss milk chocolate, divided
- 1 can (300 ml) dulce de leche caramel flavoured sauce
- 1 tsp (5 ml) sea salt, divided

# Cookie Dough Truffles. A delicious twist on tradition

**1.** Line baking sheets with parchment paper. Then, in a large bowl, cream butter and sugar together using an electric mixer until the mixture is light and fluffy, for about 1-2 minutes. Stir in the vanilla and then mix in the graham cracker crumbs, oats and salt. Once it's all combined, add in the sweetened condensed milk, mixing well. Lastly, stir in the chocolate chips

**2.** Freeze dough 30 minutes, or until firm. When ready, roll the dough into 1-inch (2.5 cm) balls and freeze 30 minutes, or until firm.

**3.** Dip cookie dough balls into melted chocolate to cover, allowing excess chocolate to drip off. Return to baking sheet and chill in refrigerator or freezer until set. Serve cold. NEWS CANADA/ ROBINHOOD.CA

**Ingredients**

- 1/2 cup (125 ml) butter, softened
- 3/5 cup (175 ml) brown sugar, packed
- 1 tsp (5 ml) pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) graham cracker crumbs
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) oats
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- 1 can (300 ml) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup (250 ml) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 lbs (680 g) milk, white or dark chocolate, melted

# SEARCHING FOR VALUED TREASURES

You've heard the old adage: One person's trash is another's treasure. That applies to yard sales and bigger ticket items alike: Cars, clothing, furniture — there's an entire second-hand industry with as many buyers as sellers.

Buying a used car is a no-brainer to many, and while shoppers scour online and newspaper ads for a cheap ride, business is just as plentiful at the car lot.

Shawn Cunningham of Ericksen Infiniti in Edmonton said up to 40 per cent of his market goes to used car sales. The biggest benefit to the consumer, Cunningham says, is not having to pay the inflated cost that drives off the lot with a new vehicle.

"For a one- or two-year-old car, you can still get remaining factory or dealership warranty," Cunningham said. The three-month or 5,000-kilometre peace-of-mind warranty gives buyers a fully-inspected vehicle — so what's to lose? Cunningham says cars that hold their value best in the resale market are luxury brands and Japanese makes.

Clothing is another easy choice when going second-hand. Big players like Value Village, the Salvation Army and Goodwill operate multiple outlets in urban centres, but solo shops abound, too.

JACK HOLLINGSWORTH/PHOTODISC/THINKSTOCK

Discount Thrift Store in Edmonton's west end has a growing number of devotees who flock to the "everything for $1 or less" promise. It's true — from winter coats, to vintage dresses to designer-brand shoes — all for a buck.

"This is the kind of store that makes thrift stores affordable for people," shopper Sam F. says.

"It's a great place for students, families and anyone who wants to look great, help the environment and save money."

# MCC IS THE ANSWER FOR FURNISHING A SPACE

Do you need a couch, bed or dresser, but can't or don't want to afford the high cost of department store goods? The MCC Furniture Thrift Store may be the answer.

One of four thrift stores operated by the Mennonite Central Committee, the shop on Keewatin Street strictly sells furniture, while the other MCC outlets offer clothing, housewares, etc.

A 10,000-square-foot, two-level facility is a one-stop shop for furnishing a space: Kitchen tables and chairs, bedroom sets and mattresses (mostly new), and plenty of the biggest seller, couches. Store manager Martha Wieler and her team pick up, display and deliver furniture to Winnipeggers that want a good deal.

"We have regular customers looking for antiques or unique pieces — students, and those on fixed income," she says. "Others know you can get an older, sturdy piece of furniture that is better quality for less money."

Yes, the environmentally-conscious shop here, but others are new immigrants that need help getting established in Winnipeg. That's where MCC can really make a difference. After operating expenses, all store profits go to MCC's worldwide development projects and, closer to home, to helping refugees get housed in a new city.

Wieler's team provides free pickup of unwanted items four days a week within city limits, and deliver for a small fee. The store is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The MCC Furniture Thrift Store is closed Sundays and holidays.

CONTRIBUTED

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204.694.3669 • mccfts@shaw.ca • mccfurniturethriftstore.com

# DONATIONS AID THE COMMUNITY

## SALVATION ARMY NEEDS YOUR HELP

For the past 130 years, the Salvation Army has been working towards meeting human needs and being a transforming influence in the communities of the world.

But it cannot do this without your help.

"There is currently an urgent need for clothing donations at the Salvation Army Thrift Store locations in Western Canada," says Scott Gilmore, spokesperson for the Salvation Army.

"Thrift Stores throughout the region are only able to function because of donations of new or gently-used clothing and housewares."

Your donations of gently-used items to the Salvation Army Thrift Stores is designed to be a win-win, providing needed items for the community at a nominal fee, while generating proceeds for Salvation Army programs.

In 2011-12, Canadians contributed more than $900,000 in vouchers for individuals and families in need to redeem for clothing and other items in a Salvation Army Thrift Store, and close to $3 million that supported Salvation Army programs and services including emergency relief and shelters for men, women and the homeless, community, family and single-parent support, work readiness and many more.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

With the largest pick-up and distribution system for a non-profit organization in Canada, the National Recycling Operations arm of the Salvation Army is breaking new ground in ways that not only provides a meaningful way for families and communities to support the good work of the Salvation Army, but also has many other benefits.

Gently-used items that are donated to the Salvation Army divert that product from going to the landfill.

There are cost savings to retailers who might otherwise be paying to lawfully dispose of damaged and defective products from their home.

And Thrift Stores give local businesses an opportunity to give back to the community, along with obtaining a tax receipt for their charitable donation.

The program called "Recycle for Good" is modelled for businesses to combine the philanthropic and environmental objectives of retailers simultaneously.

"By working together with retailers who know the benefits of building a strong community, we are excited about the possibilities that 'Recycle for Good' can bring to all who share in this endeavor," Gilmore says. "With your help, we continue to raise the bar with a relentless and unwavering commitment to the cause."

For donation information for the Salvation Army Thrift Stores, call 1-800-757-4483 (1-800-PLS-GIVE), or go to thriftstore.ca.

### DONATION DESTINATION

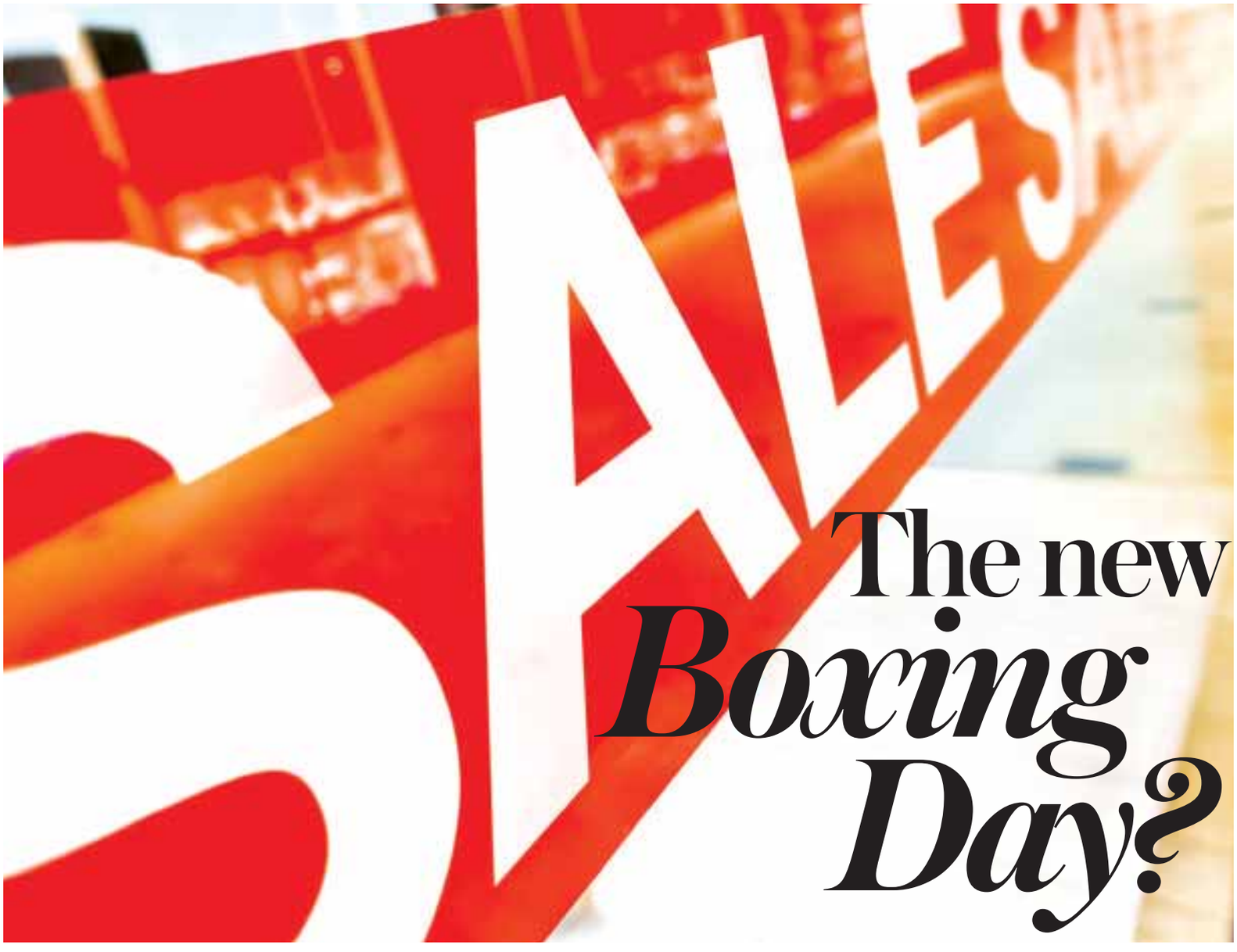
Make the Salvation Army your donation destination.

Salvation Army Thrift Stores are in urgent need of gently-used items, especially clean, reusable clothing.

Simply fill any bag with items you wish to donate, then drop off the bag at your nearest Salvation Army Thrift Store.

The net proceeds go to support vital Salvation Army programs and services in your community.

THE SALVATION ARMY
THRIFT STORE
The Salvation Army Thrift Stores are in urgent need of your clothing donations this holiday season!
Your support helps make a difference in our neighbourhood!
Together in 2011-2012, we contributed across Canada
Close to $3 million that supported Salvation Army programs and services including emergency relief and shelters for men, women and the homeless, community, family and single parent support, work readiness and many more.
Steered 32 million pounds of household items away from local landfills driven through our Thrift Store recycling program
Call 1-800-757-4483 for donation information
Please place items in this bin
Clothing Donations




# The new Boxing Day?

# Black Friday and Cyber Monday are taking Canadians by storm

**Material world.** When it comes to these American shopping days, Canadians are catching up — and they want tech, tech and more tech

**Black Friday and Cyber Monday move north of the border?**

Ask anyone in Canada about the biggest shopping day of the year and time and time again they'll tell you it's Boxing Day. If you ask the same question to our friends south of the border, they'll tell you it's Black Friday and/or Cyber Monday.

Black Friday falls on the day following U.S. Thanksgiving and it offers shoppers promotional sales that help kick off the shopping season — it falls on Nov. 23 this year. Americans also participate in Cyber Monday to take advantage of exclusive online deals — it falls on Nov 26 this year.

**Canadians expect deals on Black Friday**

With such good deals, it's no wonder that Black Friday and Cyber Monday are taking Canadians by storm.

According to a recent survey by Staples Canada and Vision Critical, 84 per cent of Canadians now know about Black Friday and 48 per cent of Canadians now know about Cyber Monday. And, in fact, 60 per cent of Canadians now expect to get deals as good as they would get on Boxing Day on Black Friday and Cyber Monday as well.

**More Canadians plan to shop on Black Friday**

Though only 17 per cent of Canadians have shopped these days in previous years, 40 per cent say that they intend to shop on Black Friday and/ or Cyber Monday this year.

After breaking these numbers down by gender, 42 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women are planning to shop on Black Friday and Cyber Monday this year.

**They Want More Tech**

So what will they be spending their money on? The answer is tech products. More than half of Canadians who are planning to shop want to get the best prices on tech. In fact, a whopping 63 per cent plan to spend their hard earned money on technology, and of that number, 33 per cent plan to buy desktops, laptops and ultra-books, 29 per cent want to buy tablets and e-Readers, 28 per cent plan to purchase monitors and TVs, 20 per cent are looking at cameras and camcorders, 18 per cent want mobile and mobile accessories and 18 per cent want to buy video games. When Canadians were asked what products they were most interested in seeing, offers for, desktops, laptops and ultra-books were their top choice. NEWS CANADA

**Border crossing**

In trying to keep Canadian shoppers on this side of the border, many retailers are slashing prices on Nov. 30 for our own Black Friday. However, a recent poll shows that one in 10 Canadians will be making the trip. If you're one of them, here's what you need to know: As of June 1, the duty-free exemptions for Canadians returning from trips abroad increased to $200 from $50 for a 24-hour stay. For 48 hours away or more, the limit was increased to $800 per person, up from $400. METRO

# BLACK FRIDAY SALE!

## Doors Open at 9:00 AM!

or shop online at www.henrys.com

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**$499.99** Black/White WEBCODES: 567SAM008/009

*Available in Black and White!*

*Minimum 4 per store.*

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- Magnesium alloy construction
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2 YEAR WARRANTY

**1/2 PRICE!**

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## HUGE SELECTION OF DIGITAL & VIDEO CAMERAS ON SALE!

12.0 MP | 5x optical zoom | 3.0" LCD

OLYMPUS

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**Waterproof, Freezeproof, Shockproof & Crushproof!**

**$199.99** WEBCODE: OLYKIT183

Kit includes Mini Tripod and Strap!

*Minimum 6 per store.*

CMOS | 12.1 MP | wide-angle | 5x optical zoom | 3.0" LCD

Canon

Canon PowerShot S100

- Full HD 1080p video in stereo sound
- Built-in Control Ring
- GPS - Track and map your shooting location
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**$299.99** WEBCODE: 566CAN298

*Minimum 6 per store.*

CMOS | 18.2 MP | wide-angle | 30x optical zoom | 3.0" LCD

SONY

Sony Cyber-shot HX200VB

- Shoot full 1080 HD video
- GPS and Compass functionality

**$399.99** WEBCODE: 566SON355

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## HUGE SELECTION OF DSLRs & LENSES ON SALE!

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Henry's Rebel T4i EXCLUSIVE BUNDLE

Kit Includes: Canon Wireless Remote, SanDisk Extreme 8GB SDHC, HDMI cable and $80 Henry's School of Imaging Credit

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Bonus Bag & Battery! $150 Value.

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**50% OFF Kodak Kiosk Instant Prints!***

* Valid in-store on the Henry's Kodak Instant Print Kiosk November 23rd to 26th, 2012. Offer applies to 4x6, 5x7, 6x8, 8x10 and 8x12 inch flat prints including bordered prints and greeting cards only. Photobooks, calendars, CD, DVD and scanning products are not included in the offer. Cannot be combined with other offers or promotions. While supplies last.

**ALL BAGS & CASES ON SALE!**

Lowepro SlingShot 102AW

**$49.99** Save $60

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Westcott Photo Basics 40" 5-in-1 Reflector Kit

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Quantities limited. Offers valid November 23rd to 26th, 2012 on in-stock items only. Sorry, no exchanges or refunds on November 23rd and 24th, 2012. Henry's Price Protection does not apply to limited or minimum quantity items or limited time offers. For more information, please visit www.henrys.com.

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# Black Friday madness may cost you your sanity: Is it worth all the hype?

Do you want to shop in this? Black Friday is one of the busiest shopping days in the U.S. and it's getting more popular in Canada with major retail stores joining in and offering bargains. GETTY IMAGES

**Shop till you drop.** Each year, Canadians join the melee and flock to the States for the shopping extravaganza, and this time round The Bay, Toys R Us and more will join in north of the border

KATHY ULLYOTT
life@metronews.ca

Stampedes. Pepper-spray attacks on fellow shoppers. Store employees trampled, crushed and even killed.

Accounts of mall mayhem on Black Friday — the day after Thanksgiving in the U.S., when merchants offer deep discounts on everything from skis to sandwich grills — have become part of retail lore. And although such incidents are rare, midnight store openings, across-the-parking-lot lineups and unbelievable deals have become as iconic of American Thanksgiving as pumpkin pie and pilgrim outfits.

Each year, more Canadians join the Black Friday fray. Statistics Canada says 4.2 million Canadians travelled to the U.S. last November, presumably to shop. This year, stores in Canada, including The Bay and amazon.ca are all trumpeting Black Friday specials.

Still, Sally Ritchie, vice president of communications and marketing for the Retail Council of Canada says Canadians aren't entranced with cross-border door-busting. "Our polling data shows that only six per cent of people in British Columbia and five per cent of Ontarians plan to travel to the U.S. for Black Friday," Ritchie says; 94 per cent of Canadians will be staying put.

So for most Canadians, it seems, the question is, "What the heck?" Well, obviously, there are the deals.

"It can be thrilling to get a key item for a really good price," says Sarah Kutulakos, an American now living in Canada. "And there's the social aspect, the ritual. You have Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends, then you all get up early on Friday to go shopping."

But more subtle psychology may be at work as well. Aparna Labroo, a consumer psychologist and the Patricia C. Ellison Professor of Marketing at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, points out that people want things more when they appear scarce. Deep discounts, offering those savings for a limited time and making only a few of those products available are all ways retailers "manipulate scarcity cues" — in other words, motivate consumers.

Enough to pitch a tent in an overnight lineup? Maybe. "People actually infer value (of a product) from the effort they put into getting that product," says Labroo.

In other words, having to line up is not only not a deterrent, it's proof that what they want is worth lining up for. "The many people present, all waiting, can heighten the sense of scarcity."

And, apparently, the need for a $38 Blu-ray player.

## Black Friday facts

- **Camping out.** Last year, a couple in Florida camped out on the sidewalk in front of a Best Buy for 12 days in order to be the first in line.
- **Buy Nothing Day.** Twenty years ago, Buy Nothing Day was created as an anti-consumerism alternative to Black Friday.
- **Holiday cheer?** Ninety per cent of Black Friday shoppers will be buying goods for themselves.
- **Online.** Sixteen per cent of Canadians will buy goods online from U.S. retailers on Black Friday.
- **Cyber Monday.** The term has become an international marketing term used by online retailers in the U.K., Portugal, Germany and Chile.
- **Turnout.** The National Retail Federation anticipates 134 million people will hit the stores this Thanksgiving weekend.

## Decided to risk a Black Friday spree? Stay safe out there!

**The Black Friday shopper's emergency first-aid kit**

- **Rolls of gauze.** Extremely compact and light, yet strong enough to tie your trunk down, or a 42-inch television to the top of your car.
- **Adhesive bandages.** For credit-card blisters or paper cuts from coupons and flyers.
- **Finger splints.** Entering your debit-card PIN repeatedly can cause carpal tunnel syndrome.
- **Caffeine pills.** Sure, there might be a Tim's close enough for an emergency run, but do you really want to risk your place in line?
- **Acetaminophen.** Even if you're not headache-prone, loudspeaker announcements and other shoppers yelling at their kids/into their phones/ at line-cutters can take a toll.
- **Scotch in a hip flask.** In case all else fails.

**Want the deals without the lines? Cyber Monday is a stressless alternative. And with a smartphone, you don't need to be at a computer, or even at home, you can do your shopping on your morning commute. A few great apps:**

- **Black Friday Shopping (blackfriday.com, free):** Get breaking Black-Friday ads, link directly to 1,200 top retailers and get cash-back coupons
- **My Christmas List (99 cents):** Plan gifts for everybody on your list; set and stick to a budget; keep track of spending; compare prices and share your lists
- **Price Check Guru (free):** Enter any item to find the lowest online price and connect directly to that retailer to buy
- **PayPal (free):** Get pay for your purchases immediately without having to enter your credit card info every time.

[1]LIMITED TIME OFFER. Offer valid on qualifying purchases of $20 CDN or more made between Nov. 21, 2012 and Dec. 5, 2012. 20x offer applies to the total base reward miles earned on qualifying purchase amount excluding shipping, duty and taxes. Base Offer may vary. Click on store logo on airmilesshops.ca for Offer details. Collectors must sign in at airmilesshops.ca before purchasing in order to earn reward miles. Offer can be combined with other Bonus reward miles Offers. Does not apply to purchases made at the following stores: Netflix or Rogers Magazine subscriptions (including *Chatelaine, Today's Parent* and *Maclean's).* All other stores are subject to change and may be withdrawn at any time. Reward miles will appear in your account within 120 days.

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**Parade-worthy**

### Holiday kick-off

Since the late 19th Century, the day after Thanksgiving has been seen as the kick-off to Christmas shopping.

Department stores such as Macy's and Eaton's began hosting parades to launch the start of the first wave of Christmas advertisements. The first official parade was Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City in 1924.

**'Tis the season**

### Retailers appeal to Roosevelt

In 1939, retailers appealed to President Franklin D. Roosevelt to move Thanksgiving up by one week to stretch out the holiday shopping season.

It stayed this way for two years, until Congress stepped in and settled on Thanksgiving being the fourth Thursday of the month.

**Market panic**

### Taking stock

The term Black Friday was first used in 1864 to describe the stock market panic set off by plunging gold prices. Though it's hard to confirm when it was first used to describe the shopping frenzy, most point to 1966, when the Philadelphia police department referred to it as Black Friday, describing the massive traffic jams and crowded sidewalks.

**Set your alarm**

### Wake up! It's time to shop til you drop

In the '90s, retailers began opening their doors at 6 a.m., but in the late 2000s many had crept to as early as 5 a.m. or even 4 a.m.

By last year, several retailers opened at midnight for the first time.

**Shopping SOS**

### Going mad in the in the name of a bargain: It's happened

In last year's frenzy, a worker at a Walmart in New York was trampled to death when the store opened its doors and two shoppers were shot in a dispute at a Toys R Us in California.

**Cyber Monday**

### With the click of a mouse, you can find a deal

With online shopping surging, there's now a Cyber Monday, the Monday after Black Friday.

Coined in 2005 by Shop.org, Cyber Monday sees millions of people spending billions of dollars through online deals.

# On your mark, get set, go ... wild

**But use good judgment while you're at it.**
Don't get caught in the frenzy and spend money erratically just because you find discounts

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

Black Friday is a delicate balancing act between scoring as many great deals as possible and not turning into a crazed shopping Grinch. It's not a day for amateurs, so we hit up Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief of Gifts.com, for some expert tips on saving money and sanity.

**Buy thoughtful gifts, not cheap stuffa**

It's hard to say no to a great sale, but don't just buy cashmere scarves because they're half-off for another hour. "Remember that a great deal isn't always a great gift," says Holmes. "Make sure you have a list of who you're shopping for, a budget for each person and some ideas for each person. I like to put some adjectives next to their names along with some of their favourite stores to stay focused."

**Keep your receipts**

You will make impulse buys that you regret — it's part of the day. "Keep a zippered pouch in your purse to keep your designated Black Friday receipts," advises Holmes. "You don't want to misplace any — you're buying a lot of stuff, you're excited and when you get home you may realize you don't want all of it."

**Bum a ride**

"I'm a big advocate for carpooling," says Holmes. "Go with your shopping buddies and you can save a parking space and gas, which is a hot commodity right now." Not to mention, it's nice to have company in the parking-garage traffic — because oh, yes, that is a thing that happens.

**Cross-check for online deals**

Some deals, such as doorbusters, are strictly in-store offers. But increasingly, retailers are offering the same sales online with plenty of perks. "If you see something you like, check it out on your phone — sometimes it can actually be just as cheap to buy it online, get it shipped and get it gift-wrapped for free," says Holmes. "Then you don't have to lug it around all day."

**Don't fake being an early bird**

Ultimately, Black Friday should be a silly, fun way to kick off the holiday season. If waiting in the dark for your favourite store's doors to open isn't your idea of fun, sleep in and skip the door-buster deals. "It's more about the camaraderie — it's for a special kind of person who really enjoys that," says Holmes of the 5 a.m. openings. "Everybody else, just go when you want. There will be lines, parking will be tough, things will run out — you have to enjoy it for it to be worth it."

Black Friday should be a silly and fun way to kick off the holiday season. Don't overdo it. ISTOCK IMAGE

SHOP AT HOME
Black Friday Sale!
Starts Thursday, Nov. 22 thru to Sunday, Nov. 25
Buy 1 get 1
50% off*
of equal or lesser value
*Cannot be combined with any other coupon or promotion.
4 YEAR WINNER
A1 nutrition
GRANT PARK SHOPPING CENTRE,
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www.a1nutritiongrant.com

## Five things not to buy on Black Friday.
## As a general rule, avoid these items

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

**Toys**

Unless you want to ruin your daughter's life forever, scoop up that McKenna American Girl doll right away. But your average toy? Lindsay Sakraida, features director at Dealnews.com, says to hold off. "We see quite a few fairly decent toy deals, but things will get cheaper later in December," she says. "Unless it's a really hot item that you're after, wait for them to get cheaper in the two weeks before Christmas."

**Name-brand electronics**

TVs, digital cameras and laptops are huge Black Friday draws, but it's not necessarily the time to buy one. The generic brand TV that the big-box store is offering is, likely, a huge bargain, says Sakraida. But anything name brand — Sony, Samsung, Canon, etc. — will see its best price in the first couple months of 2013, right before the latest models hit shelves.

The exceptions are Apple products, says Sakraida. They don't usually go on sale, so take advantage of any promotion if you were planning to buy them this year.

**Winter apparel**

If you're shopping for yourself, wait. "You'll see a lot of good coupons — but if you're looking for something like a heavy down winter coat, you'll see a better price in January," says Sakraida.

**Holiday decor**

"When it comes to Christmas decorations, these are things they're hoping you'll just grab while you're out," says Sakraida. "Wait until it's closer to Christmas to get a better price."

**Jewelry and watches**

If you're shopping for gifts, go ahead and buy these on Black Friday. But if you're looking for yourself, wait until after the holidays to buy jewelry or watches, says Sakraida. These are popular gifts, so retailers aren't offering their best deals.

# NHLPA submits offer but sides 'still far apart'

**Lockout.** Union moves toward league in revenue sharing as talks resume in New York

The NHL and NHL Players' Association finally seem to be speaking the same language, but they still have a gap to bridge in negotiations on a collective bargaining agreement.

The union tabled a comprehensive proposal Wednesday that generated a tepid response from the NHL. However, commissioner Gary Bettman acknowledged the six-page offer was a step in the right direction and the document appeared to offer a path forward in talks, with the sides now envisioning the same type of economic system.

"There was some movement in our direction and it was appreciated," said Bettman. "We're still far apart. But hopefully there's some momentum so we can bring this to a conclusion."

The union proposed a 50-50 split of revenues during the five-year deal along with $393 million US in deferred make-whole payments throughout. Two weeks ago, the league offered $211 million and a 50-50 split.

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr acknowledged that his constituents are anxious to end the lockout and indicated that the new offer is "about as good" as the players are willing to make.

"(The players) are suffering right along with the fans," said Fehr. "We made an enormous move in the owners' direction to try and end it — at least as of today that hasn't been successful."

Until now, the union had been pushing for a system that would see players paid a fixed amount of revenue each season rather than receiving a percentage of it. However, the new offer included some safeguards to ensure they'd be protected in the event league revenues stalled, including a clause that states the players' share can't drop from year to year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Yet to be resolved**

## *Contracts could still be sticking point*

There is also ground to cover on contract issues.

The NHLPA offer included a rule that would punish teams who sign players to long-term, back-diving contracts — something the league has identified as an important issue. It also called for players making more than $1 million US in the minors to have their salary count against the cap.

The union chose not to adopt the NHL's proposed changes to unrestricted free agency, entry-level deals and salary arbitration.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**CFL**

## Argos coach doesn't want players to score ... until game day

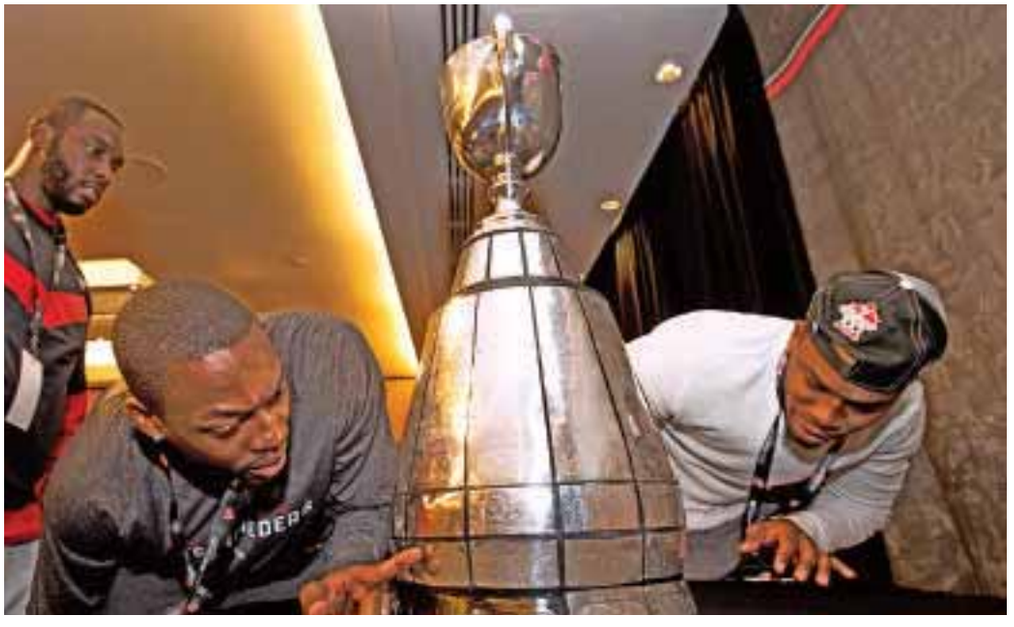
Scott Milanovich wants the Toronto Argonauts to control their libido during Grey Cup week.

The Argos rookie head coach says he doesn't want his players scoring off the field prior to the big game. Toronto takes on the Calgary Stampeders for the CFL championship Sunday at Rogers Centre.

But he also has a personal reason for taking this approach.

"I have two young daughters at home right now that are probably watching this press conference, so my take on it is going to be 'I believe in abstinence,'" Milanovich said Wednesday, answering what has become the traditional last question of the Grey Cup coaches' news conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



## Stampeders get acquainted with cup

**Calgary Stampeders teammates Fred Bennett, left, and Chris Randle have a close look at the Grey Cup during the West Division champions media lunch in Toronto on Wednesday.** NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Skiing. Alpine Canada looking for ways to include Vonn in men's race

The president of Alpine Canada hasn't given up on Lindsey Vonn racing men at Lake Louise, Alta.

The first time might not be in a World Cup race, though.

**Lindsey Vonn** GETTY IMAGES FILE

Max Gartner says he's been talking to Vonn's sponsor Red Bull.

"We're working on some plans, but we do hope this will happen down the road," Gartner said. "We do hope it will happen in Lake Louise.

Vonn asked FIS, the world governing body of skiing, if she could race in the men's World Cup downhill and super-G this weekend at Lake Louise. The reigning Olympic champion has 11 World Cup victories and 17 podiums in total.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Olympics**

## Trial set for alleged bottle thrower

A man accused of throwing a plastic bottle onto the track seconds before the men's 100-metre final at the London Olympics will go on trial in January.

Ashley Gill-Webb pleaded not guilty at Thames Magistrates Court on Wednesday to using threatening words or behaviour with intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

The 34-year-old man was granted conditional bail and ordered to stand trial in east London on Jan. 3.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# MLB. Buehrle gets in two cents on way out of Miami

Mark Buehrle issued a parting shot at Miami Marlins management after his stay with the team lasted only one tumultuous season.

The left-hander, who signed a four-year contract a year ago, was part of the blockbuster trade that also sent all-star shortstop Jose Reyes, right-hander Josh Johnson and two other players to the Toronto Blue Jays. With the deal, the Marlins pared $146.5 million US in future payroll.

"I'm upset with how things turned out in Miami," Buehrle said in a statement issued Wednesday through his agent, Jeff Berry. "But I'm putting it behind me and looking forward to moving on with my career."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Quoted**

**"Just like the fans in South Florida, I was lied to on multiple occasions."**

**New Blue Jays left-hander Mark Buehrle** in a statement issued Wednesday

4 SPORTS

## Horoscopes

### Aries
**March 21 - April 20**
Flattery will come easily to you today but you must use it with care. Your way with words may be able to win others over to your side but do you really want everyone knowing what you are up to? Think about it.

### Taurus
**April 21 - May 21**
If you need to connect with someone you have drifted apart from recently, now is the time to make your move. Don't wait for them to approach you, pick up the phone or knock on their door and say "Hi!"

### Gemini
**May 22 - June 21**
You have been worrying for no good reason and what takes place over the next few days will remind you just how fortunate you truly are. Once your mind is in a better place, your physical health will improve as well.

### Cancer
**June 22 - July 23**
Use your imagination and follow your dream, wherever it might lead. Some people may say you have taken leave of your senses, but more likely the opposite is true: You have at last found your true calling.

### Leo
**July 24 - Aug. 23**
The Sun in Sagittarius gives you bags of self-confidence and you must use it today to help a loved one or friend get over some kind of loss or trauma. The best way to do that is to make them laugh.

### Virgo
**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**
Don't try to keep your feelings to yourself. Let the whole world know why you are so full of love and laughter. Most likely it's because you have finally realized that life is supposed to be enjoyed, not dreaded.

### Libra
**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**
There is someone in your life you need to pay a lot more attention to. You know who this someone is and you know it is your responsibility to reach out to them. So what are you waiting for? Do it now.

### Scorpio
**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**
The Sun may have moved out of your birth sign but today Venus, planet of emotional and material values, moves in, which is not a bad swap. Who and what do you truly value? Make sure you don't lose them.

### Sagittarius
**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**
You feel good about yourself now but how do you feel about other people? You may have reason to believe that certain individuals don't deserve your friendship, but why make an issue of it? Forgive, forget and move on.

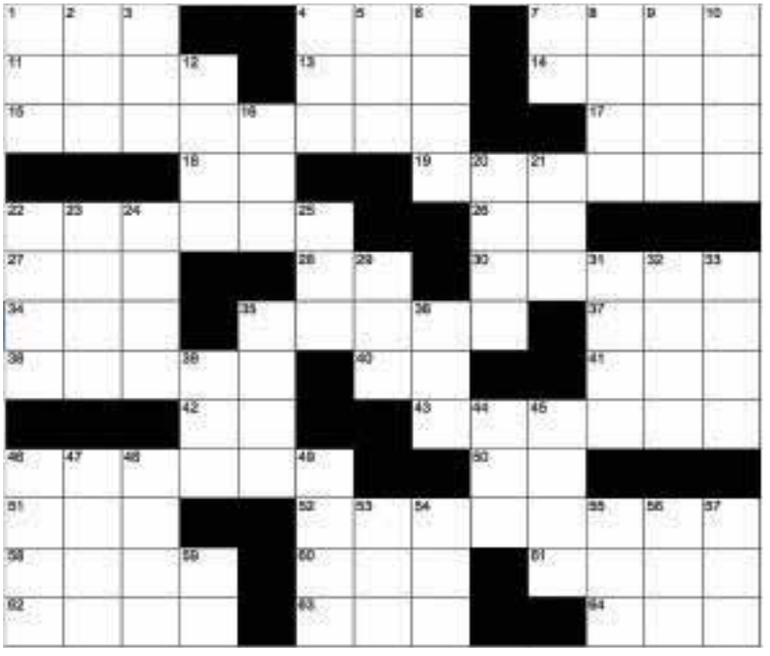
### Capricorn
**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**
Give your mind and your body a rest today, and let others do the heavy lifting for a change. Friendships are under excellent stars now, so why not have fun with your friends? Laughter is always the best medicine.

### Aquarius
**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**
Someone will ask you for advice today and you will be happy to give it, but do they really want to know the truth? If what you have to tell them is not what they want to hear, it could cause a falling out.

### Pisces
**Feb. 20 - March 20**
Steer clear of subjects and situations that could lead to conflict. That is especially important on the work front where, if you speak your mind, you could make a powerful enemy. Not everyone wants to hear the truth. **SALLY BROMPTON**

## Crossword

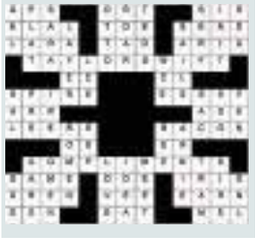
BY BETTY MARTIN



**Across**
1. Children's game
4. Decide on
7. Rich tasty dinner
11. Small inlets
13. Prefix meaning recent
14. Roof gutter
15. Spat
17. Cat or dog
18. Egyptian Sun God
19. Cattle
22. Moves slightly
26. Bible pt.
27. Danson of Cheers
28. Mate for Ma
30. Highway exits
34. Spanish cheer
35. AM or FM instrument
37. Served at Archie Bunker's Place
38. Fridge maker
40. Type measure
41. Meadow
42. Roman two
43. Basement
46. Fashion designer McCartney
50. First two vowels in a sequence
51. Blue Bloods actor Selleck
52. Microbes
58. Ticklish muppet
60. Pitcher's stat.
61. Vampire novelist: Anne —
62. Cruel or nasty
63. Served with crumpets
64. Actor James Van — Beek

**Down**
1. — la la
2. Atmosphere
3. Joke
4. — Tree Hill
5. Writing implement
6. Children
7. Wind direction (abbr.)
8. Pre-record
9. For always
10. Dampens
12. Ride the waves
16. Gymnastics equipment
20. Bull
21. Airport info.
22. Portico
23. Rudder
24. Brainstorm
25. Health club
29. Summer refreshment
31. Teen hangout
32. Beg
33. Brand
35. Method of transport
36. Company abbr.
39. Nothing
44. Sit down to a meal
45. Ogle
46. Flower part
47. Entice
48. Stone or Watson
49. Help in a robbery
53. — You Afraid of the Dark?
54. Canadian Automobile Association (abbr.)
55. Toss out
56. Drink cooler
57. — Lingus
59. "— Golden Pond"

### Yesterday's Crossword



### What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

## Sudoku

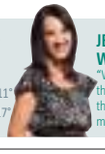
**How to play**
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 4 | 6 | | | 1 | 9 | |
| 7 | | | | | | 5 | | 3 |
| | 6 | | | 8 | | | | 7 |
| | 5 | | | | 9 | 2 | | |
| | | | 2 | | 7 | | | |
| | | 7 | 3 | | | | 8 | |
| 3 | | | | 9 | | | 1 | |
| 5 | | 9 | | | | | | 4 |
| | 7 | 8 | | | 1 | 9 | | |

### Yesterday's Sudoku

## Weather

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|
| MAX: 3° MIN: 1° | MAX: 1° MIN: -11° | MAX: -11° MIN: -17° |



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